

SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Where The Truths Of God's Word Have Been Taught For More Than Sixty Years" Since October 21, 1961

1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

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Please Join Us As We Pray For:

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, and Brother Philip Thornsberry, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Buckie Thompson, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Tyrell Loyd, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, cousin Kayla, Lee & Mary Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ronnie Henderson Jr. & Children, Ricky Henderson and Family, Velma Hammond, Don Hammond and Families, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Gina and Kirk, Brother Kelley and Sister Hinson, Patricia Hinson, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Vickie Adkins, Shirly King - Son David – and family, Brother Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Roselyn Pardillo and Family and those that work with her, Hailey Beaver, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Sister Rebecca's Family, Dakota Sutton, Brother Dan and Sunny Sullivan the work in Thailand, Brother Raul and the work in Romania, Bro. Sergey Mochalov and the Churches in Russia.

Thoughts from our Pastor:

The Gifts of Our Father.

2 Peter 1:3 *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"*

It is such a blessing to be a child of God! We are all a child of God by grace, having been given life in the life and sacrifice of His own Son Jesus, His glorious blood cleanses us from all our sins against our Father. And please don't forget to thank God for the power of the Holy Spirit who quickened our spirits and called us to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, sealing that salvation. God hath before the foundation of the world chosen us to be His children, our salvation was not based on our merits, on our turning our own sinful thinking, nor on any personal commitment from us, but of God who graciously gave it to us. John 1:12 - 13 *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* Oh, what a glorious gift of divine power that was given to us to have eternal life. However, here Peter wrote, *"...his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life..."* This is not just the breathing life into our nostrils, nor is it only talking about God causing us to be born from above, God's divine power has given to us, all life. God gave us life in the womb of our mothers, God gave us eternal life in Jesus Christ, and in every aspect of our life is a gift from God. God said this divine gift was *"...all things that pertain unto life and godliness..."* This covers our entire life and not just a certain section or advent of our life. God added the words *"and godliness"*, this word means – pity – but it also means – holiness – and this Greek word comes from the Greek word "eusebes" which means – devout – which covers our life as Christians, yes it too is also a gift. As Christians our entire life from conception thru eternity is a gift from God, even our belief in biblical truth, to our church membership, to our work for the Lord, to our doctrinal stance, to our daily life, and thru our death. Our entire life and what it is, is a divine gift from God. Any goodness we do in this life is a gift from God and powered by the Holy Spirit and thru the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul wrote these words, *"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."* 1 Corinthians 12:4 *"Therefore, we do not all have the same divine gifts in life but the variety of gifts God gives us, even the gifts of godliness. Look what Paul wrote to the church at Rome, "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: (5) So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. (6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;"* Romans 12:4 – 6 While this is talking mostly about our position in the church he ends with *"let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;"* meaning, the proportion

that God by divine grace has given, or their proportion of the individual degree of faith given. The Holy Spirit does not give the same gifts to every saved soul, we are all given grace by measure that God has elected to gift us with. Paul also wrote in Romans 12:3 *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."* Meaning that God thru the power of the Holy Spirit has given a certain amount of grace to each of us, *"...but the variety of gifts God gives us, even the gifts of godliness."* And this is all we are in Christ or all that we will ever be in Christ, we cannot advance beyond the divine gifts of God or the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, Paul wrote that we *"not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;"* We are simply nothing outside of God's divine grace, but inside of the divine gifts of God we can move mountains. Men, some of our brothers in faith, even some Ministers and Pastors can kind of look beyond God's grace and think they are above others, but we must walk carefully because the same divine grace that brought us a godly life can also take it. Paul wrote of himself these words, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am..."* 1Co 15:10 while Paul was being very gracious toward the power that brought his godly life, he was also being very truthful. God had called Paul to *"...to glory and virtue:"* this is the life God chose for him before the foundation of the world, but not only for him but also for us, we are all what God has made us. *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (9) Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."* Philippians 4:8 – 9 All of these things are divinely given by God's Holy Spirit to us to accomplish what God has ordained for each of us. *"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."* Acts 17:28

More Thoughts!

J. C. Philpot

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." Hebrews 2:9

How wondrous that he who, as the Son of God, made the angels, should be made inferior to them, and even need and receive their ministering aid and support. O the depths of humiliation to which the blessed Redeemer stooped, carrying down into their lowest point that pure, spotless, holy humanity which he had assumed into union with his divine Person as the Son of God! And let us ever bear carefully in mind that humiliation is not degradation. Our blessed Lord "humbled himself" by a voluntary act of surpassing grace; and it was no more in the power of men or circumstances to debase him of his glory than of lying witnesses to strip him of his innocency. The spotless purity of his sacred humanity, as in union with his divine nature, and as filled with and upheld by the Holy Spirit, preserved it from degradation in its lowest humiliation. The crown of thorns and the purple robe, the mocking knee of the Roman soldier and the taunting scoff of the Jewish priest, though they called forth the grace, did not tarnish the glory of our suffering Lord. His holy obedience to his Father's will in drinking the bitter cup, his meek dignity amid the worst of insults, and his calm resignation to all the weight of suffering which God or man laid upon him, all shone forth the more conspicuously under every attempt to dishonor him.

It is most sweet and blessed to look down, as it were, into some of those depths of humiliation into which the Redeemer sank, and to see that in the lowest depths of his soul travail, when he was poured out like water, and his heart, broken with grief and sorrow, was melted within him like wax, he was, in the midst of all, the glorious Son of God, though then the suffering Son of man; and that he was the same Jesus yesterday when hanging on the cross, as he is today at the right hand of his Father, and will be forever in the realms of heavenly bliss.

Church News:

Please remember our upcoming Bible Conference September 16 6:00pm – 8:00pm and September 17

2 Thessalonians 1:11 - 12 *"Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: (12) That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."*